

City of Fort Worth 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



INSIDE: Cowtown in Color — Murals add life to Fort Worth



City of Fort Worth 2019 Annual Report



The City of Fort Worth 2019 Annual Report is published by the Communications and Public Engagement Department.



Contents

Mayor's Welcome	3
City Manager's Message	4
 High-Performing Government	5
 Safety	6-7
 Maintenance and Growth	8-15
 Livability	16-22
Mayor and Council	23
Contact us	24

Deep in the art of Texas: Murals in Fort Worth

This report features some of the magnificent murals splashed across Fort Worth's neighborhoods. Street art tells stories about the city's heroes, history and community pride.

Discover these artistic masterpieces on the walls of Cowtown's hot spots — some well-known, some hidden. In certain cases, murals have helped transform blighted spots into must-see attractions.

We encourage you to view these murals by driving, walking or cycling by. Everywhere you go, you'll see Fort Worth pride.

From the Mayor



As we reflect on the past year and begin a new decade, it is clear the momentum in Fort Worth has never been greater. In 2019, great progress was made as we tackled numerous challenges head on, and our community came together around the common goal of making our city better and stronger than ever.

This past year, Fort Worth grew to the 13th largest city in the nation, which is no surprise given all our great city has to offer and its unparalleled quality of life. We experienced incredible growth, progress and development by focusing on education, economic development and equity.

Our continued effort to deliver quality services to all Fort Worth residents resulted in several new initiatives in 2019, from unveiling the MyFW app to expanding library hours. All of which, and many more, are highlighted in this annual report.

Meaningful progress was made in numerous areas — some of which aren't as easy to highlight in an annual report — namely, the continued implementation of the Race and Culture Task Force recommendations. In 2019, we created the Diversity and Inclusion Department and hired the city's first-ever director of diversity and inclusion. Additionally, we hired a police monitor and assembled an independent panel of experts to review policies and procedures in the Fort Worth Police Department.

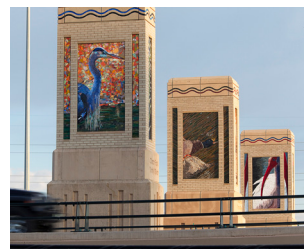
These hires are a direct result of months of honest conversations, listening sessions and community input. And truthfully, the hard work will continue as we strive to build a more inclusive and equitable community.

Building was a strong theme in 2019. Not only did we see an increase in permitting, we also welcomed numerous new facilities — the crown jewel being Dickies Arena. We built on our positive momentum on early childhood education and quality childcare, launching a new initiative, Best Place for Kids. This is a collabora-

tive, communitywide approach to education, childcare and family-leave policies that will lead to a stronger, more family-friendly city.

It was a year of great challenge, opportunity and growth. But in true Fort Worth fashion, we united and persevered. I am confident the momentum and hard work will continue into 2020 with the help of each and every one of you. As we kick off a new decade with a vision of becoming the best city in which to live, work and play — remember, together we make one Fort Worth.


Betsy Price
Mayor



City Manager's message



The last year has been filled with incredible growth and opportunity for Fort Worth, much of which is documented in this 2019 Annual Report. I encourage you to spend some time reading through this year in review, as we have many milestones and accomplishments to celebrate as a community.

This brief summary highlights many — but not all — of our achievements in 2019, including snapshots of programs, projects and services that impact all Fort Worth residents.

In 2019, your municipal government continued to focus attention on:

- Building on our Neighborhood Improvement/Reinvestment Strategy in the Stop Six, Ash Crescent and Northside communities, while identifying ways to increase and generate neighborhood vitality throughout the entire city.
- Implementing strategies to identify and eliminate racial inequities and disparities in how we deliver city services. We continue to implement the

more than 20 recommendations from the Race & Culture Task Force, all of which were included and prioritized in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

- Increasing resources dedicated to new infrastructure and maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- Improving the planning and development review process. A few organizational changes are underway that will lead to process improvements and efficiencies.
- Continuing to work with Trinity Metro on strategies for regional transit solutions and increased mobility.
- Implementing the 2014 and 2018 bond programs and kick-starting the planning process for the 2022 bond program.
- Using business plans, financial models, performance measures and benchmarks to help us make better informed decisions within the operating and capital budgets, which is all part of our ongoing effort to be a more equitable, data-driven organization.

All this and more is highlighted in greater detail in the following pages. As the 13th largest city in the nation, this only scratches the surface. We have a bold vision and a strong strategy for the future. Together, we'll continue to make Fort Worth even better.


David C. Cooke
City Manager





HIGH-PERFORMING GOVERNMENT

Providing exceptional customer experience.

Tip o' the hat to Fort Worth: Awards and designations for 2019



Fort Worth was a winner in the **Cities of Service Experience Matters** competition. With support from AARP, Cities of Service will work with Fort Worth and five other cities to develop volunteering initiatives that address public problems related to the drivers of poverty.

Three Fort Worth initiatives were identified as examples of development excellence in North Central Texas. **CLIDE Awards** were presented to Fort Worth's new preservation ordinance; the adoption of the *Stockyards Form-Based Code and Design Guidelines*; and rehabilitation of the Meissner-Brown Building at 2717 Ave. B in the Polytechnic neighborhood.

Fort Worth was honored by the National Wildlife Federation's **Mayors' Monarch Pledge** program, becoming the fourth city in North America to be recognized with this title for its commitment to monarch conservation. Fort Worth has created 97 acres of monarch habitat.

Log Cabin Village received the **Texas Star Award**, given annually to a site or organization that has demonstrated outstanding overall contributions to living history in Texas.

Fort Worth again scored a perfect 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's **Municipal Equality Index**, which measures cities' inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents.



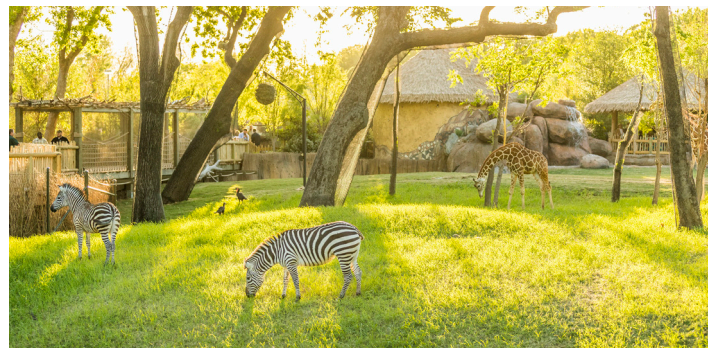
Fort Worth is a recognized **HEART Safe Community**, a program designed to recognize the efforts a community makes to its residents in protecting them from the effects of heart disease and sudden death.

Fort Worth won the Sister Cities International 2019 **Innovation Award for Business and Trade** for a city with a population greater than 100,000. The award recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding individuals and community sister city programs that are promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation.

Trinity Park is among six Texas parks honored with designation as a **Lone Star Legacy Park** by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society. A Lone Star Legacy Park holds special prominence in the local community and Texas.

Fort Worth's **Active Transportation Plan** — a data-driven approach to developing a comfortable walking and bicycling network — was named one of the state's best planning projects by the American Planning Association Texas Chapter.

Fort Worth's Central Library and Northwest Branch were named by DFW Child Magazine as two of the best **kid-friendly reading spaces** in the Metroplex.



The **Fort Worth Zoo** was named the No. 4 zoo in the nation by *USA Today*, the third year the zoo has finished in the top five. The zoo's African Savanna placed sixth in the Best Zoo Exhibit category.

The Congress for the New Urbanism named **Sundance Square Plaza** in the top 10 list of best public spaces at the heart of cities in America.

Fort Worth ranked 12th nationwide for best U.S. cities for **startup businesses**, citing the city's tech talent, millennials and housing affordability.

Government Fleet magazine named the City of Fort Worth's vehicle fleet as one of the **Leading Fleets for 2019**.

WalletHub named Fort Worth the 23rd best city for a **pet's health and wellness**, based on pet budget, pet health and wellness and outdoor pet-friendliness.

For the first time, Fort Worth received a bronze ranking for its wellness-related policies from **CityHealth**, becoming one of 10 cities recognized for overall improvement in health policies from 2018 to 2019.



SAFETY

New animal care center in far north to focus on human-animal interaction and open spaces

Planning and design are complete for a new Animal Care and Adoption facility in far north Fort Worth, adding capacity to the existing shelter in southeast Fort Worth.

Voters approved \$13.7 million in the 2018 bond election to build the state-of-the-art facility. The focus at the new shelter will be on open spaces.

There will be an adoption center with plenty of space for potential adopters to meet pets; a veterinary clinic with surgery and triage units; sallyport for animal arrivals; open work spaces to enhance engagement among the staff caring for the animals; and plentiful indoor kennels with attached outdoor spaces.

North Texans may recognize the look of the buildings — they are inspired by the cattle barns at Will Rogers Memorial Center. The design focus is on the simplicity of nature, steel, concrete and glass. The eight-acre facility will be situated around an existing pond with a native prairie landscape.



The campus is designed with an emphasis on animal environmental enrichment and human-animal interactions.

Groundbreaking at the new center on Hillshire Drive took place in early 2020, with construction scheduled to be completed in January 2021.

📍 FortWorthTexas.gov/animals

New flood warning website helps protect lives, property



Residents can see real-time flood warning information at monitored low-water road crossings.

Fort Worth's new flood warning information website is designed to provide real-time flood warning risk levels to protect people from hazardous flood conditions.

The flood warning information is generated from monitored low-water road crossing flashers at 52 locations throughout the city, which warns drivers in the immediate area of a flood hazard by flashing warning lights. At the same time, text and email alerts to emergency responders are issued when water-level sensors of each flasher system are triggered by rising water.

The new website shows drivers in real time whether the road crossing near their home, workplace, school or any location on their commute, is a flood risk before they even arriving at the location.

📍 FortWorthTexas.gov/floodwarning

New fire stations, apparatus serve a growing population

Fort Worth voters approved a bond proposition for fire safety improvements.

The bond proposition included demolishing Fire Station 26 due to its age and condition, and designing and building a new fire station in Council District 6 at a cost of \$5.3 million.

The bond also included a proposition for a new Fire Station 45 at a cost of \$6.4 million. The project, in Council District 7, is in the design stages.

Fire Station 43 will be constructed in far west Fort Worth to serve existing neighborhoods such as Lost Creek as well as rapidly developing areas such as the Walsh Ranch development. The station will include up to four bays with about 11,000 square feet. The \$4.7 million project is in the planning stages, with project completion scheduled for early 2021. Funding comes from the 2014 bond package.

New fire apparatus hits the streets

FWFD received five new trucks — two quints and three engines — at a cost of \$4.3 million. The new trucks were assigned to:

- Station 16 (Quint 16 and Engine 16).
- Station 21 (Quint 21).
- Station 24 (Engine 24).
- Station 2 (Engine 2.)



A new ladder truck at Station 21 is striped in purple and serves the South Hills neighborhood and the TCU campus.

The quints differ from engines in that they are aerial trucks serving the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. All of the trucks are used to carry fire personnel, firefighting/rescue and emergency medical services equipment to the scene of emergencies. Each unit has an expected service life of eight to 10 years on the frontline followed by up to five more years in a reserve capacity.



Healthy changes in store

Ramey Market, a popular Stop Six corner store near several schools, got a makeover to make healthy choices easier. In a collaborative effort led by Blue Zones Project and supported by Tarrant County Public Health, Dunbar High School, the Plan4Health food access program and the Historic Stop Six Initiative, Ramey is now a healthy corner store, complete with fruits and vegetables and healthy on-the-go snacks.

Where to see it: Ramey Market, 5428 Ramey Ave.



New fire apparatus were assigned to four stations.



MAINTENANCE AND GROWTH

*Preserving the past,
building the future.*

Transit Moves plan aims to keep Fort Worth moving

To increase transit's role in Fort Worth's overall transportation system, the city is implementing Transit Moves Fort Worth.

The comprehensive long-range plan for improving the city's transit system includes four main elements:

- A transit vision for Fort Worth to guide improvements through 2045.
- Specific improvements that should be implemented to achieve the vision.
- Identifying potential new sources of funding for the improvements.
- Governance changes recommended to facilitate implementation of the plan and improve transit service delivery.

**TRANSIT
MOVES**

**FORT
WORTH**

The City Council funded a \$450,000 study of Fort Worth's transit goals and how they align with Trinity Metro's master plan. A key objective is to identify priorities for the city to maximize the return on investment while also integrating into regional funding solutions and partnerships across the county.

An additional \$550,000 was approved for to-be-determined pilot projects aimed at improving local transit options, particularly focused on solving first- and last-mile challenges of residents and offering options for certain underserved areas.

A public involvement plan in 1999 targeted the business community, transit-dependent users, millennials, senior citizens, hospital systems, educational interests and others.

🔗 transitmovesfortworth.com

Trinity Metro adds new transit innovations

Trinity Metro launched several high-profile projects in 2019, including TEXRail.

North Texans gave TEXRail a warm welcome during the commuter rail line's inaugural year. The train travels across a 27-mile route from downtown Fort Worth to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport's Terminal B.



Just seven months after beginning service in January, TEXRail expanded its schedule to 10 hours of 30-minute frequency during peak hours, seven days a week. This increased the number of daily trips from 48 to 73.



The Dash

The Dash is Trinity Metro's first electric bus that takes riders from downtown Fort Worth to the Seventh Street corridor and the Cultural District. The Dash provides daily service with later hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

ZipZones

As an innovative way to help North Texans reach their destinations, Trinity Metro began providing ZipZone, a first-mile/last-mile transportation solution, in select service areas.

ZipZones were operating in the Alliance Corridor and at the Mercantile Center business park, both in north Fort Worth.



🔗 ridetrinitymetro.org

Plan will lead to a unified citywide transportation network

The City Council approved Fort Worth's Active Transportation Plan, which focuses on walking (including persons with disabilities) and bicycling, including connectivity between other modes such as vehicles and transit.

The plan integrates and updates previous planning efforts such as the Walk Fort Worth and Bike Fort Worth plans, develops a new Trails Master Plan and provides coordination with the regional Transit Master Plan. The approved plan is a unified citywide transportation network for people who walk and bike, with a coordinated implementation strategy for planning, prioritizing and building improvements.

City staff completed an innovative Pedestrian Experience Index, which incorporates infrastructure such as sidewalks and crosswalks and built environment data to quantify the quality of the pedestrian experience for each block face (one side of the street between intersections) and each intersection in Fort Worth. A similar analysis was completed for bicycle user comfort, called Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress.

Equity was a major component of project prioritization. For new sidewalks, 40% of the score was focused on racial, economic and areas with a high number of persons with disabilities. Trails and on-street bikeways received 30% of the equity score.

Outcomes of the plan have led to a prioritized list for sidewalk, trail and on-street bike lane projects, targets for increasing funding for active transportation and a design guide to ensure bike lane projects are installed for maximum comfort and usability.

The plan was named one of the state's best planning projects by the American Planning Association Texas Chapter.

🔗 FortWorthTexas.gov/atp

Mayors in five cities recognized for work in securing Regional Veloweb Trail



The 53-mile network will run from downtown Fort Worth to downtown Dallas and connect with an extensive network of trails in adjoining cities.

The Regional Transportation Council recognized the mayors of Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Irving and Dallas for their successful efforts to collaborate and secure funding for the Fort Worth-to-Dallas Regional Veloweb Trail.

Once complete, the regional trail will extend 53 miles from downtown Fort Worth to downtown Dallas and connect with an extensive network of trails in each city. It will provide easier access to transit, employment, schools, neighborhoods and many other trails in each of the five cities.

All sections of the regional trail are expected to be complete by 2023.



Saluting early church leaders

At about the same time the Fort Worth Stockyards were getting started, a group of African American residents formed Shiloh Baptist Church in 1903, first meeting in a tent at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Cliff Street. A mural created by city employee Jason MacGregor features the word *Shiloh* — peace in Hebrew — and images of early church leaders.

Where to see it: Under the bridge at North Main and Northwest 25th streets along Marine Creek.



MAINTENANCE AND GROWTH

*Preserving the past,
building the future.*

Bond-funded street and building projects moving forward

It's no secret that Fort Worth's population continues to grow. That means more residents and more cars — and infrastructure needs to be added or replaced. To address these issues, city officials rely on bond programs to fund capital investments in neighborhoods, business districts and for infrastructure.

2014 bond program. Residents approved \$292 million in the 2014 bond program. With more than 18 arterial and 215 neighborhood street projects, two fire stations, a library, community center and park improvements, progress continues with more than 77% of the funds spent.

2018 bond program. In 2018, Fort Worth voters overwhelmingly approved a \$399.5 million bond package that included propositions funding capital investments to build new roads and repair existing ones, new park amenities and community centers, library improvements, animal care facility and public safety facility improvements. These improvements represent 109 different projects across the city.

Work is underway on these projects. As of late, two projects have been completed and a little over 17% of the funds have been spent or encumbered.

Advanced metering system launched in far north Fort Worth neighborhoods



The city is launching an advanced metering system called MyH2O. Advanced metering infrastructure, or AMI, improves customer services and water utility operations through new technologies.

It will take nearly three years to switch out more than 250,000 meters citywide. The phased implementation started in far north Fort Worth, then expands to other areas.

Customers will eventually have access to an online portal to do such things as monitor water usage and set alerts if there's continuous water flow.

🔗 FortWorthTexas.gov/myh2o

Existing meter box lids are being equipped with a transmission unit that sends encrypted usage data from a new water meter via a secure wireless network to the water utility to create a bill.

Pothole Month success: 2,380 potholes filled

Thanks to residents who called in reports, Fort Worth's Pothole Crew received 660 repair requests in May, which was designated Pothole Month.

Crews repaired 2,380 potholes in May. The city receives an average of 254 requests for potholes and fills 1,041 each month.

Crews are out daily locating and filling potholes on almost 8,000 lanes miles of roadway throughout the city.

🔗 FortWorthTexas.gov/report

I-35W construction to begin soon in the Alliance Corridor

Funding has been secured for the final segment of the North Tarrant Express project in far north Fort Worth.

The project expands I-35W from U.S. Highway 287 north. The highway will provide a connection between downtown Fort Worth and the rapidly growing areas to the north.

The \$910 million project will rebuild 6.7 miles from just north of U.S. Highway 81/287 (Heritage Trace Parkway) to Eagle Parkway in Denton County. The new corridor will include reconstructed main highway lanes, expanded frontage roads and two TEXpress managed lanes in each direction.

Preconstruction activities are ongoing, and full construction will ramp up in 2020. Anticipated substantial completion is late 2023.

Other major road projects:

East Loop 820

The Texas Department of Transportation continues to make progress on the East Loop 820 project, a \$174 million job that will reconstruct Interstate 820 between Randol Mill Road and Pipeline Road, build additional

lanes in each direction, replace the Trinity River bridges and create new direct connectors to and from State Hwy. 121.

The three-mile project will improve mobility and safety for drivers in northeast Tarrant County through the I-820 bottleneck. The project is part of a \$3.8 billion Texas Clear Lanes initiative by Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Legislature to improve mobility.

Construction is estimated for completion in 2022.

Southeast Connector

The Southeast Connector project will reduce congestion, improve roadway operations, provide safer and more convenient connectivity through the area and increase mobility for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

In addition to adding frontage road segments, highway access ramps will be reconfigured to optimize I-20, I-820 and U.S. 287 access while reducing vehicular weaving.

The project is still in the planning stages. Construction is estimated to start in 2022 and take about four years.



It's a jungle out there

Keep Fort Worth Beautiful restored the Jennings-May-St. Louis neighborhood's Aztec mural, which had become the victim of graffiti. Paschal High art students came up with the original idea to use visual imagery of Mexican culture in a huge mural on the apron beneath the bridge. The concrete pillars would become trees. The design took root and grew into a colorful, tropical-themed artwork.

Where to see it:

3041 S. Jennings Ave.

Fort Worth now the 13th largest U.S. city



Fort Worth saw the third largest population increase in the U.S. in recent Census numbers.

said Mayor Betsy Price. "Of course, substantial growth presents both great opportunities as well as new challenges to strategically manage our growth without compromising what makes Fort Worth a unique place to live, work and play."

Price and community leaders credit recent efforts focused around economic development, education, workforce development and health and wellness for having a positive impact. Fort Worth saw the third largest population increase in the U.S.

U.S. Census Bureau 2019 population estimates showed Fort Worth jumping from the 15th to 13th largest city in the United States with a population of 895,008. Fort Worth gained 19,552 residents in 2018, climbing ahead of Columbus, Ohio, and San Francisco.

"Fort Worth's rapid growth speaks to our incredible quality of life, business-friendly climate and affordable cost of living,"



MAINTENANCE AND GROWTH

*Preserving the past,
building the future.*

Near Southside looking at incubator space for creatives

Near Southside Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone board members began the process of establishing a creative business incubator in the district.

The TIF agreed to fund a development study that will outline strategies, partnerships, development concepts and implementation steps for the incubator.

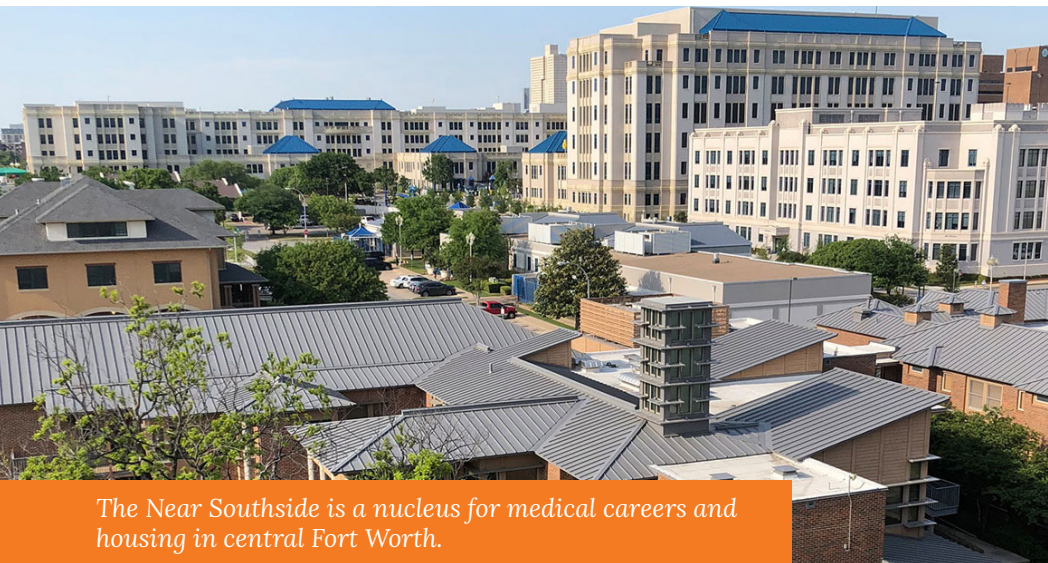
Artspace, a Minnesota-based nonprofit arts organization, was hired to conduct the assessment, which will cost about \$37,000. The final report is expected to be complete by summer 2020.

Near Southside Inc. would then work in partnership with Artspace and other local partners to build and operate a creative business incubator with affordable spaces for artists to live and work.

A new frontier for medical innovation – Fort Worth unveils the iter8 Health Innovation Community in Near Southside

Partners and community leaders launched Fort Worth's new Medical Innovation District, known as the iter8 Health Innovation Community.

The vision is to become an inclusive and integrated community of world-class scientists, entrepreneurs, companies and investors in the medical, biotech and healthcare sectors, who will all work together to advance groundbreaking research, invest in each other and support success for all.



The Near Southside is a nucleus for medical careers and housing in central Fort Worth.

The district, which is concentrated in Fort Worth's Near Southside, is intended as a place where medical ideas can push boundaries and open new frontiers for health advancements. However, the district's boundaries truly extend across the entire city to include university campuses, hospitals, biotech firms and businesses throughout Fort Worth and the region.

While there's much to offer in Fort Worth's current medical hub — prime location, transit opportunities, housing availability and food/entertainment options — there are still some challenges to

overcome. Specifically, the area needs to diversify its medical jobs to include the research and development sector, more physical spaces like labs and incubators are needed to foster co-working and collaboration, and connectivity needs to be increased between the district's medical/business corridors and nearby amenities and residential areas.

Hemphill-Lamar Connector project on track for spring 2020 completion



An extension of Hemphill Street from Vickery Boulevard to Lancaster Avenue is being constructed beneath the Union Pacific Railroad.

Crews discovered that the retaining walls installed on the south side of the Hemphill-Lamar underpass was undergoing stress for which they were not engineered. These retaining walls provide a unique living, green wall with sustainable plantings. To address this stress, these walls had to be removed, redesigned and reconstructed to ensure the long-term viability of this feature.

Total cost of the project is \$53 million with the city contributing \$26.6 million. The remaining funding comes from the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Texas Department of Transportation and Tarrant County.

Construction continues on the Hemphill-Lamar Connector project. The project remains on schedule for completion in spring 2020.

All railroad bridges for the underpass have been completed, and the tracks have been restored. Excavating dirt and rock under the bridges has been completed. Work on the interior of the underpass has begun.



Seven-story stunner

You can't miss this Near Southside apartment building trimmed in bright yellow. All around are 20 colorful murals that embrace the vibrant culture of the neighborhood. The real show stopper, though, is a mural by Eric Inkala, a self-taught artist from Brooklyn who painted a mural seven stories high, from the ground to the top of the apartment building.

Where to see it: Mag & May Apartments, 315 Magnolia Ave.

New X-Team provides faster plan review service

Fort Worth now offers an expedited plan review service for building permit review.

The service allows developers and others seeking a building permit to schedule a meeting with a plan review team and their design professionals within two weeks of submitting a complete set of plans, address any issues identified on the spot and potentially issue a building permit in one sitting.

The multidisciplinary team providing expedited plan review service — called the X-Team — consists of four senior plans examiners (building, electrical, mechanical/plumbing and zoning), an engineering tech, a coordinator and a senior customer service representative. When necessary, functions such as Code Compliance–Consumer Health, Water, Fire, TPW–Stormwater and TPW–Traffic will review the plans during the two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.

X-Team reviews can be performed on projects with final plats recorded, all engineering and infrastructure approved, appropriate zoning in place and any necessary variances or certificates of appropriateness obtained.



MAINTENANCE AND GROWTH

*Preserving the past,
building the future.*

Sparkyard helps Fort Worth become the City of Cowboys, Culture — and Innovation



Entrepreneurs in Fort Worth now have a digital one-stop shop to provide them with the right resources at the right time in their business development.

The initiative is called Sparkyard, a name that derives from combining that innovative “spark” of an idea with the lineage of the Fort Worth Stockyards — one of the first industries that helped establish Fort Worth as a city.

But while the concept pays homage to Fort Worth’s Western heritage, the platform is all about helping Fort Worth and its community of small businesses and entrepreneurs grow into its new identity as the 13th largest in the country.

The primary purpose of Sparkyard is to help entrepreneurs sort out the often-confusing collection of local resources available to help them locate funding, scale up production or even launch their business.

City partners with The Beck Group on construction program for Minority Business Enterprises seeking larger projects

The City of Fort Worth and The Beck Group, an integrated architecture and construction firm, launched a new construction program for Minority Business Enterprises called The Beck School of Construction Fort Worth.

The program features a series of eight training sessions to help MBEs increase their knowledge of the construction industry and to be competitive in bidding on projects with the City of Fort Worth, The Beck Group and other public and private organizations.

Representatives from 14 MBE businesses spent eight months growing their industry knowledge and gaining valuable insight into elements of construction law, finance, on-the-job safety, bonding and insurance, negotiation and estimating, and how to prepare and submit bids — all with the ultimate goal of preparing them to successfully bid on larger projects and grow their experience throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Beck was the prime contractor leading construction on Dickies Arena, which included a successful MBE outreach effort that resulted in more than \$58.6 million in contracted MBE participation.

Mobility Innovation Zone at AllianceTexas will serve as testbed for future transportation technologies

Hillwood is leveraging its AllianceTexas multimodal development to create a cutting-edge center of innovation that will be a global catalyst for the future of mobility.

The company plans to collaborate with its anchor corporations, future customers, policymakers, regulators, entrepreneurs and academic institutions to develop a first-of-its-kind mobility innovation “do-tank” for partners to develop, test, scale and commercialize advanced mobility technology and business models.

Hillwood has engaged Deloitte’s Future of Mobility Global Practice team to develop the strategic direction, business model and operating platform for the AllianceTexas Mobility Innovation Zone. Through this collaboration, AllianceTexas will lead the nation in smart infrastructure and serve as a convening place for stakeholders throughout the innovation lifecycle.

Home to the Federal Aviation Administration’s Southwest Regional Headquarters, AllianceTexas offers a fully integrated testbed unlike anything else in the country with direct access to inland port anchors as well as a FedEx Ground Sort Hub, two UPS Sort Hubs, major corporate anchors including Fidelity Investments and Charles Schwab, and more than 162 miles of major arterial, state and federal highway systems.

Work continues on Northside neighborhood improvements

Work progressed in 2019 to make the Northside neighborhood cleaner and safer as part of a \$3.05 million program funded by the City Council.

City crews mowed and cleared brush from foreclosed and vacant properties, removed damaged trees, trash and debris from roadways and cleaned up litter in the neighborhood.

This was part of a yearlong strategy to increase public safety, improve public infrastructure, expand community engagement, promote economic revitalization and provide supportive services to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency.

Funding for the neighborhood improvement program came from a ½-cent allocation of the municipal property tax rate to provide capital projects, improve public safety and attract private investment in underserved neighborhoods.

The targeted Northside area was the city’s largest area targeted for revitalization by this program.

In 2017, the first year of the program, the city provided \$2.56 million to the Stop Six neighborhood. The next year, the Ash Crescent neighborhood in southeast Fort Worth received \$2.77 million.

In 2020, the city has targeted the Rosemont area for \$3.1 million in improvements.

🔗 FortWorthTexas.gov/northsidearea/



Strike a pose

This may be the most Instagram-worthy spot in Fort Worth. This tall cowboy, whose coffee cup is always full, hangs out on the side of Brewed in the Near Southside. The mural was painted by Starr Studios. (When you drop by, use the hashtag #lovetheworth and your selfie might be featured on Brewed’s Instagram.)

Where to see it:
Brewed, 801 W. Magnolia Ave.



LIVABILITY

Fort Worth Public Library focuses on engagement



Four Fort Worth Public Library delivery trucks were redesigned to reflect different aspects of the city and the resources the library offers.

Imagine wanting to visit the library, but finding the front doors locked. Consider feeling ashamed to visit the library because you have overdue fines.

The Fort Worth Public Library made two major changes in 2019 meant to reduce or eliminate the barriers in these situations. On April 1, the Library expanded its operating hours, and on Oct. 1, the Library stopped charging fines for overdue materials.

Time on your side

The Library gave the community more time to visit its locations, and as a result, in the first six months, usage increased across several categories by an average of 27%. The expansion was implemented by modifying staff schedules and without using any additional taxpayer money.

Operating hours were expanded by 20 hours per week at regional libraries, by 14 hours per week at local branches and by eight hours at the Central Library downtown. The change made the Library's largest and most popular locations — East Regional, Southwest Regional and Central — open noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Overall, the library added 202 additional open hours per week across the city.

Free to return

But what good are additional operating hours if there is a percentage of the population who don't feel welcome

Making Fort Worth a better place to live, work and play.

in our libraries? The negative side of fines can prevent people from using the library because of shame or that fines are a financial burden. An estimated 18,000 library cardholders had at least \$5 in fines that prevented them from checking out additional materials. On Oct. 1, the Library stopped charging patrons for items returned past the due date.

Libraries that have eliminated overdue fines have found that patrons are more likely to return items, and generally by the due dates. On the other hand, charging fines does not guarantee items will be returned.

Going fine-free is designed to make patrons feel free to return, and it can benefit entire families who had previously avoided the Library because of fines. Parents who avoided the Library because of overdue fines are now more likely to bring their children, inspiring the next generation to read and learn all their lives.

New library cards and trucks

To showcase the Fort Worth Public Library's fun side, its four delivery vehicles were redesigned in 2019 to reflect various aspects of the Library's culture. Each truck reflects a unique facet of what the Library brings to neighborhoods across the city, including its fun environment and commitment to books and reading, arts and culture, community vitality and Fort Worth's rich history.

Funding to rewrap the trucks was provided by Friends of the Fort Worth Public Library.

Supporting the arts

The 10th anniversary of the Library's 3rd Thursday Jazz Concert Series once again highlighted not only the musicians who continue to make Fort Worth a great place for jazz music, but also showed how the community still loves to listen.

All five concerts, culminating in September with Grammy-winning drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, drew capacity and near-capacity crowds. Jazz-related events and activities at Library locations across the city provided programming for jazz lovers of all ages.

Other music performances from Cliburn in the Community, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and more kept the Library at the forefront of providing free concerts for the community. Looking into 2020, the Library will be partnering with other organizations to celebrate and support Fort Worth music in many ways.

🔗 FortWorthTexas.gov/library

Progress update: Race and Culture Task Force recommendations

City staff continues to make progress on implementing more than 20 wide-ranging recommendations from the Task Force on Race and Culture.

In 2017, the City Council appointed the 23-member task force to examine issues related to race and culture in Fort Worth.

Here are progress reports for some of the recommendations:



Kim Neal
Police Monitor

Criminal justice strategies

The City Council agreed to create a police monitor function in the City Manager's Office.

The task force urged the city to adopt a method for independent oversight of the police department to increase the community's trust in the department. One of the first tasks for the police monitor will be define the processes and models associated with independent oversight of the police department.

The Police Department plans to reinstate a Police Cadet program and target students in majority-minority high schools as a way to potentially recruit more minority applicants to the ranks of the department.

The Police Department will begin crafting a diversity hiring plan for all positions with respect to race, ethnicity and gender.

Economic development strategies

In an effort to expand the capacity of minority-owned businesses to secure contracts and achieve success, the city and The Beck Group, an integrated architecture and construction firm, launched a construction program for Minority Business Enterprises.

Realizing that lack of viable transportation alternatives can be a hindrance to maintaining steady employment, the city has partnered with Workforce Solutions to enhance job fairs and training opportunities.

Education strategies

The task force recommended efforts to improve child-care in minority neighborhoods in cooperation with the Early Learning Alliance. The city will work with a consultant to conduct an organizational assessment and develop an equity plan based on that assessment.

To improve the college and career readiness of African-American and Hispanic high school students, the city established a working group with several partners to examine GO Centers — campus and community

facilities that aspire to help students see pathways to careers and college — and develop a plan to rebrand the centers to expand their reach into the community.

Governance strategies

A new diversity and inclusion director will manage the newly created Diversity and Inclusion Department, formerly known as the Human Relations Unit of the City Manager's Office. This department is responsible for coordinating implementation of the task force's recommendations and promoting equity in the provision of all municipal services.



Christina Brooks
Diversity &
Inclusion Director

Health strategies

As part of ongoing efforts to increase residents' participation in walking, cycling and other forms of exercise, sidewalk gaps and streetlights gaps have been identified in certain neighborhoods. An addition to the capital planning process for the next five years is an effort to evaluate infrastructure maintenance and investment based on equity.



A Northside cultural anchor

North Side High School alumnus and artist Arnoldo Hurtado unveiled a mural spanning a 110-foot wall in the heart of the Northside community. The mural is designed to be a source of cultural pride and help revitalize this historic neighborhood. The mural, titled, "Convivio (Coexist): Murals of Community and Inclusion," depicts North Side High School's award-winning Mariachi Espuelas de Plata. Hurtado organized a Convivio painting event in July, which drew more than 200 children and adults who were excited to paint the first layer of the mural.

Where to see it: Franko's Market, 2622 Azle Ave.



LIVABILITY

Expanded, renovated parks and community centers welcome residents

Enhancements are being made to recreation amenities across the city. These are the latest improvements:



A rendering of the front of the new Como Community Center, featuring a work of public art by Adam Neese.

Como Community Center nears completion

The Como community is getting a new community center that will offer both youth and adult programming, fitness resources and meeting space. After the new center is operational in early 2020, the old building will be demolished.

Funded by the 2014 bond program and other sources, the center cost more than \$12 million. Amenities in the 25,000-square-foot facility include classrooms and activity rooms, a demonstration kitchen, computer lab,

Making Fort Worth a better place to live, work and play.

senior activity area, improved administrative offices, Community Action Partners social service office, fitness area, gymnasium, outdoor seating, a customer-friendly reception desk, increased special event space and a spacious lobby.

Historic Bunche Park opens

Dignitaries and neighborhood representatives cut the ribbon to open Ralph J. Bunche Park in June after the District 5 park received a series of improvements including trails, a group shelter, benches and picnic tables.

Located at 5600 Ramey Ave., Bunche Park was developed in the early 1950s when Fort Worth's neighborhoods and parks were segregated by race. The land was originally acquired by the city to serve the area south of Carver Heights, a suburb where many of Fort Worth's upwardly mobile African American residents lived.

Botanic Garden, BRIT collaborate

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden have combined their education and volunteer efforts to launch new and innovative programming.

The partnership — called GROW — has resulted in new opportunities for students, families and adults. GROW currently includes joint programming for the two facilities and a combined volunteer program. As part of the expanded partnership, the Botanic Garden and BRIT began selling joint memberships to encourage community support of these institutions.

New amenities at Northwest Community Park

The second phase of Northwest Community Park's master plan development was dedicated in March with a day of fun and baseball at the park's new athletic fields, 8575 Blue Mound Road.

Among the new features at the facility are two youth baseball fields, one adult baseball field, one softball field, two T-ball field backstops and dugouts and a multipurpose practice field.

Dream Park provides inclusivity

In April, the long-held dreams of passionate



Bunche Park opened in June after a series of improvements that included trails, a group shelter, benches and picnic tables.

community members were realized with a ribbon-cutting celebration for Frank Kent's Dream Park, a play space custom-designed for children of all abilities to explore, learn and play.

Located in the heart of Fort Worth's Trinity Park, the 57,000 square-foot playground is the city's largest, as well as one of the largest play spaces of its kind in the state. The state-of-the-art park far exceeds guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Its amenities include poured-in-place rubber surfacing for wheelchairs and individuals with limited mobility, adaptive swings for toddlers and children with low muscle tone, a stainless-steel roller slide that won't short-out kids' hearing devices, and much more.

Trinity Park receives Lone Star Legacy designation

Fort Worth's Trinity Park is among six Texas parks honored with designation as a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society.

Although Trinity was not the first park in Fort Worth, it was the first property purchased by the city for use as public parkland. In 1892, a 31-acre parcel of land was established as City Park; the name was changed to Trinity Park in 1910.

Rockwood to get new clubhouse

Rockwood Golf Course will get a new clubhouse to complement the redesigned course. The City Council authorized a design-build contract for up to \$6.7 million. Combined with administrative costs, the total project cost is \$7.7 million.

The original Rockwood Park Golf Course was opened in 1938. In November 2015, the course underwent a \$5 million reconstruction. These improvements have been well received, and play at the city-owned course has increased by 50 percent.

Sycamore Creek Golf Course repurposed

The City Council voted to close Sycamore Creek Golf Course and repurpose the land as a community park.

Sycamore Creek was considered a low-volume course, recording 12,500 rounds played each year. By repurposing the golf course, the city will make greater and more diverse use of the land. The park could eventually be connected to the Trinity Trail System. Additional golf traffic is expected to go to Meadowbrook Golf Course, the municipal course closest to Sycamore Creek.

Burnett Park turns 100

Originally designed by George Kessler on land donated to the City of Fort Worth by oilman Samuel Burk Burnett, this three-acre park provides important green space in an otherwise densely urbanized downtown district. A key component of Kessler's City Beautiful plan for Fort Worth, the park offered a centralized fountain surrounded by open lawns.

Zoo deeds Savanna to city

The Fort Worth Zoo handed over the deed to its latest attraction, African Savanna, to the City of Fort Worth.

The African Savanna is the first stage of a campaign called A Wilder Vision. Sitting on 10 acres of existing zoo land, the savanna allows guests to see giraffes, springbok, ostriches and more in one exhibit. The habitat is surrounded by shaded walkways and an aviary with a variety of bird species. A hippo exhibit includes spectacular above-water and underwater viewing. The exhibit also includes an elevated deck for giraffe feeding, restaurants, shaded viewing areas, private event space and more.



Mayor Betsy Price and others cut the ribbon opening Dream Park, a play space for children of all abilities.



Howdy, neighbor! Grab a brush

Fort Worth's Sunset Heights Neighborhood Association took an unattractive retaining wall at the entrance to the neighborhood and transformed it into an opportunity for neighbors to meet one another, plan a project, collaborate and work together to beautify their neighborhood with an inspiring mural.

Where to see it: Mickie Lynn Avenue between Vickery Boulevard and Driskell Boulevard.



LIVABILITY

Tarleton opens Fort Worth campus; plans call for the campus to serve 9,000 students by 2030



With the opening of the first building on an 80-acre campus, Tarleton is setting the stage for a bright future.

After more than 40 years in Fort Worth, Tarleton State University opened the first building of its planned campus along Chisholm Trail Parkway with a ribbon cutting, tours and remarks from community leaders, legislators and Texas A&M University System officials.

The three-story, 76,000-square-foot building — crowning 80 acres donated by Walton Development — will enable Tarleton to work with business and industry leaders to expand current degree programs and add new ones, furthering continued economic growth and development in North Texas.

Tarleton State University came to Fort Worth in 1978 with eight students on West Myrtle Street, moved to the Richard C. Schaffer Building on Enderly Place in the 90s, and expanded to the Hickman Building on Camp Bowie Boulevard in 2006.

Tarleton-Fort Worth now offers more than 50 graduate, undergraduate and certificate programs to working adults, community college graduates and returning students. Classes for the university's first Ph.D. — a doctorate in criminal justice — began at the new campus.

Plans are for the campus to serve 9,000 students by 2030.

tarleton.edu/fortworth

Making Fort Worth a better place to live, work and play.

Fort Worth's well-being rank jumps among U.S. metro areas

Well-being continues to climb in Fort Worth, with new research placing the city in the top 20% of the country's metropolitan areas. According to the Gallup National Health and Well-Being Index, Fort Worth's 2019 equivalent rank for residents' well-being ties for 31st out of 156 communities nationwide.

The city's latest equivalent ranking is based on a new comparison of updated metropolitan statistical area data and is a notable increase over past performance in the survey. In 2013, Fort Worth's equivalent rank was 185th out of 190 reported metro areas. Four years later, the city's equivalent rank increased to 58th out of 186 MSAs surveyed. The latest Gallup survey places Fort Worth on par with the Austin/Round Rock area.

Fort Worth has seen dramatic improvement in career, social, financial, community and physical health — the five essential areas of well-being measured by the Well-Being Index. While much of the nation continues to see a decline in well-being, Fort Worth's overall WBI score rose from 58.8 in 2014 to 62.5 in 2018.

bluezones.com

Citywide effort is pushing for 100 percent of third-graders reading at college-ready pace by 2025

The City of Fort Worth, in collaboration with Read Fort Worth, announced that the city's programming to further the mission of improving third-grade literacy is known as "100x25."

The name refers to a citywide effort that mobilizes educators, funders, government, businesses, parents and community organizations to support the goal that 100 percent of Fort Worth ISD third-graders are reading on grade level by 2025.

readfortworth.org

Celebrating Dickies Arena, Fort Worth's newest icon

Fort Worth opened Dickies Arena on Nov. 26, 2019. The 720,000-square-foot multipurpose arena in the Cultural District opened to a large crowd one month ahead of schedule.



Dickies Arena opened with a bang in November.

Fort Worth philanthropist Ed Bass, The Beck Group Executive Chairman Peter Beck and Mayor Betsy Price spoke to a crowd of about 2,000 people at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the 14,000-seat arena.

"So many people have done so much, it makes me grateful deep

in my heart of what we've been able to accomplish. This is the finest multi-purpose arena in America," said Bass of the \$540 million arena, which is a unique private-civic partnership between the city and private donors, also led by Bass.

Dickies Arena is already bringing a wide variety of programming to Fort Worth, including major concerts, family shows, sporting events and community events. Beginning in 2020, Dickies Arena will be the home to the Fort Worth Stock Show rodeo performances. The \$540 million project complements the current Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum, which will continue to serve as a major equestrian show arena.

 dickiesarena.com



Supporting the art of well-being

One of Fort Worth's newest and brightest art installation is making the city more colorful than ever — all while promoting residents' well-being. Trinity Artcourt is a vibrant, full-size mural painted on a basketball court. The project features vivid, interconnected geometric shapes under each goal, on fuchsia and royal blue backgrounds.

Where to see it: Under the West Lancaster Bridge in Trinity Park.

Pioneer Tower relights the night

The iconic Pioneer Tower at Will Rogers Memorial Center underwent a high-tech facelift to coincide with the opening of the nearby Dickies Arena.



Aluminum grates were removed from all sides of the tower and it was relit from within.

After decades of darkness, the tower is once again lit up and serves as a beacon for Fort Worth's Cultural District.

Crews removed the aluminum grates from all sides of the 208-foot tower so it can be relit from within. The tower's new LED lights can be changed to celebrate local events.

Infrastructure-related work on the tower included replacing a limestone band, which was determined to be structurally unsound, and the lower glass blocks on the north side of the tower.

Total cost of the project was \$4.7 million.

Building Dickies Arena

- More than 4 million working hours went into building the arena.
- There were 1,000 workers onsite at the peak of construction.
- \$850,000 is the average value of work that was in place daily at the height of development.
- 200,000 cubic yards of soil were removed from the site.
- 87,000 cubic yards of concrete make up the arena, along with 2,200 tons of structural steel in the roof framing and 1.3 million bricks.
- The Plaza has more than 700,000 brick pavers, 13,000 cubic yards of soil and 20,500 plants and trees.
- There are 1.2 million pounds of HVAC ducts, 10 miles of HVAC piping and 1.3 million feet of copper data cable in the arena.

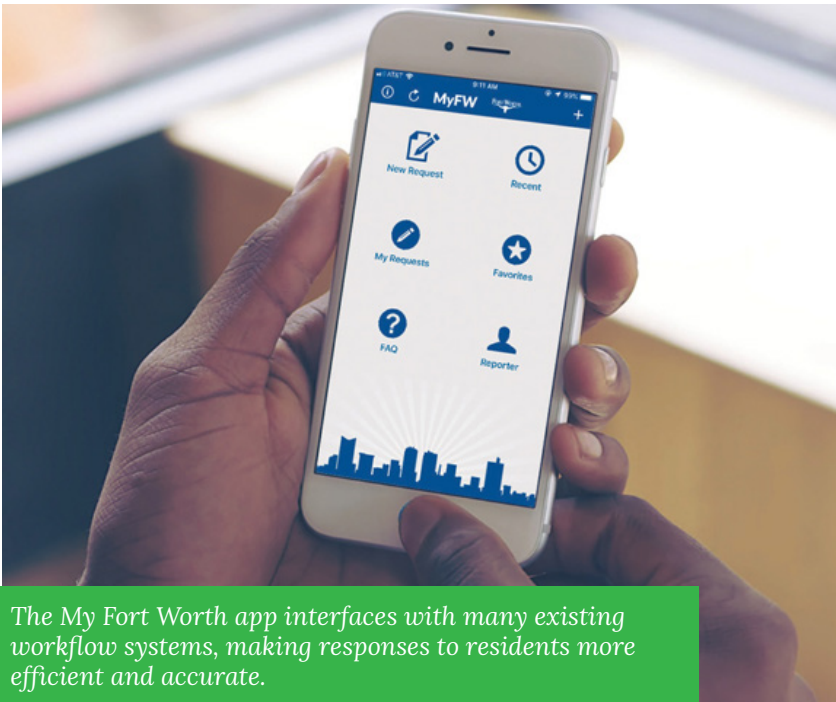
Source: The Beck Group



LIVABILITY

Making Fort Worth a better place to live, work and play.

Streetlight outage, graffiti, potholes, high grass and weeds. All of these issues and more can be reported with MyFW app



The My Fort Worth app interfaces with many existing workflow systems, making responses to residents more efficient and accurate.

Fort Worth residents and visitors now have a quick and easy way to report issues to the city.

After downloading the My Fort Worth (MyFW), users can provide a brief description, photos and use a map-based location feature to submit issues like graffiti, potholes or high grass. Once submitted, the request will go directly to the appropriate city work team for a quick response. The user can view the status of the request in the app and receive a notification when the work is complete.

MyFW also saves time and money by automating many employee tasks. It saves gas and eliminates travel by enabling city staff to instantly upload reports and photo documentation from the worksite. Employees can initiate work orders from their office or in the field.

Fort Worth celebrates opening of HUD EnVision Center, the only one in Texas, at Martin Luther King Community Center

The City of Fort Worth and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development opened the doors to Texas' only HUD EnVision Center at Martin Luther King Community Center. The center is in Fort Worth's Stop Six neighborhood, with services targeted to residents of the Cavile Place public housing complex, although other area residents can access services.

HUD's EnVision Centers are premised on the notion that financial support alone can't solve the problem of poverty, and that collective efforts across a diverse set of organizations, both public and private, are needed to help low-income individuals and families

rise out of it. The programs offered are based on the EnVision Center's four pillars: economic empowerment, educational advancement, health and wellness, and character development.

The opening of the EnVision Center at the MLK Community Center, 5565 Truman Drive, coincided with the revitalization of the Cavile neighborhood in Stop Six. The city allocated \$2.56 million for neighborhood improvements, including new sidewalks, brush cleanup, blighted and dilapidated structure teardown and new security cameras to reduce crime.

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Welcome, y'all!

Visit Fort Worth launched a campaign to tell the world that Fort Worth welcomes all people. Indeed, Fort Worth again scored a perfect 100 in 2019 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, which measures cities' inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents.

Where to see it: HG Sply Co. in Westbend, 1621 River Run.

Contact us



FortWorthTexas.gov

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City of Fort Worth



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